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PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 10th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Monday, 29 June 1992, at 3 p.m.

Temporary President: Mr. SOMAVIA (Chile)

President: Mr. MROZIEWICZ (Poland)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

OPENING OF THE SESSION

The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT declared open the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council for 1992.

TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF HIS EXCELLENCY MR. MOHAMED BOUDIAF, PRESIDENT OF THE HIGH COMMITTEE OF STATE OF ALGERIA

On the proposal of the Temporary President, the members of the Council observed a minute of silence in tribute to the memory of Mr. Mohamed Boudiaf, President of the High Committee of State of Algeria.

Mr. AL-FAIHANI (Bahrain), speaking on behalf of the Group of Arab States, Mr. MARKER (Pakistan), speaking on behalf of the Group of Asian States, Mr. ADOUKI (Observer for the Congo), Mr. KUDRYAVTSEV (Russian Federation), speaking on behalf of the Group of Eastern European States, Mr. FRANCIS (Australia), speaking on behalf of the Group of Western European and other States, Mr. SOMAVIA (Chile), speaking, in the absence of the delegation of Saint Lucia, on behalf of the Group of Latin American States, Mr. KOLANE (Observer for Lesotho), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, Mr. MOORE (United States of America) and Mr. OULD CHEIKH EL GHAOUTH (Observer for Mauritania), speaking on behalf of the States members of the Arab Maghreb Union, expressed their deep sympathy to the Government and people of Algeria on the tragic death of Mr. Mohamed Boudiaf and extended their condolences to the family of the late President.

Mr. AIT CHAALAL (Algeria), thanking the spokesmen of the regional groups and the other delegations that had taken the floor for their condolences, noted the significant role played by the late President in his country's independence movement and said that Mr. Boudiaf, with his unshakeable belief in freedom and progress and his profound attachment to human rights, had served as a symbol to the Algerian people of their popular struggle for liberty and democracy.

ELECTION OF THE BUREAU

The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT recalled that members of the Council had been informed, at the resumed organizational session, that Mr. Silović (Yugoslavia) had relinquished the post of President. On behalf of the Bureau and the Council, he expressed sincere gratitude to Mr. Silović for his excellent work during his tenure in that post.

He informed the members of the Council that the Group of Eastern European States had endorsed the candidacy of Mr. Mroziewicz (Poland) for the post of President of the Council for 1992.

Mr. Mroziewicz (Poland) was elected President by acclamation.

Mr. Mroziewicz (Poland) took the Chair.

The PRESIDENT said that, after a period of recession and stagnation, the world economy might gradually be approaching a recovery, however modest or fragile. Stronger economic activity was once again possible. That assessment, however, did not yet apply to all regions and countries, particularly countries in Africa and those experiencing savage economic contraction and war or civil strife. In overcoming the deterioration of economic and social conditions in the past few years, much would depend on the successful outcome of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations and, more generally, on the liberalization of trade and the easing of access to markets. Whatever the outcome, the Council would continue to face the daunting challenge of creating a propitious environment for mobilizing resources and establishing programmes to ensure long-term development. The current session of the Council would provide an important forum for discussing issues which affected developing and developed countries alike, including governance and financing, cooperation and coordination of activities, poverty and indebtedness, and human rights and social development. The current session should also offer an exceptional opportunity for considering the question of social development, fostering the human factor in society and promoting human rights and participatory democracy. Through its decisions and recommendations, the Council was in a position to re-establish the importance of the economic, social and related sectors of the United Nations system in the quest for peace.

(The President)

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 45/264, a number of significant measures had been taken to ensure that the Council was better equipped to carry out its functions under the Charter. The Council would be holding, for the first time, a high-level segment with ministerial participation. The theme for the high-level segment, "Enhancing international cooperation for development: the role of the United Nations system", was particularly appropriate at the current stage in international relations.

The establishment of a coordination segment represented a deliberate attempt on the part of Member States to ensure that the Council exercised more fully its coordination functions under Articles 63 and 64 of the Charter. The Council would be in a position to adopt decisions stemming from the discussions with the executive heads participating, which could then be forwarded, in the form of recommendations, to the organizations concerned for follow-up action.

The operational activities segment was another new departure for the Council. The Secretary-General would be submitting two important reports on a number of issues which also related to the theme of the high-level segment. The discussions in those two segments would give a boost to the work of the Council in that important area. Having established a well-structured institutional framework, the Council was in a position to contribute meaningfully to enhancing the effectiveness of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system and strengthening international cooperation.

Mr. AKSIN (Turkey), speaking on behalf of the member countries of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), said that the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the members of OIC had met on 17 and 18 June in Istanbul to discuss the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and had adopted a resolution which, inter alia, noted that the claim of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to assume automatically the membership of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in international organizations had not been accepted. The resolution urged all States not to recognize the succession of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia until it fully complied with the Security Council resolutions concerning Bosnia and Herzegovina and

(Mr. Aksin, Turkey)

formally recognized the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and unity of that Republic and until an agreement on the question of succession was reached by the States that had constituted the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Accordingly, the member countries of OIC considered that the participation of Yugoslavia at the current session of the Council did not prejudice their Governments' positions regarding the representation of that country in the United Nations.

Mr. MOORE (United States of America), referring to Security Council resolution 757 (1992), which noted that the claim by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to continue automatically the membership of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in the United Nations had not been generally accepted, said that his Government firmly believed that the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia no longer existed, and did not consider Serbia and Montenegro to be the continuation or the sole successor to the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Accordingly, Serbia and Montenegro were not entitled to assume the seat of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in international organizations, including the United Nations.

Mr. REINO (Observer for Portugal), speaking on behalf of the European Community, said that the Community had taken note of the statements by the representatives of the Republic of Serbia and the Republic of Montenegro on 27 April 1992 that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia continued the international, legal and political personality of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Those statements raised questions concerning the automatic continuity of Yugoslavia's membership in international organizations, including the United Nations. In that connection, he drew attention to the statement adopted by the European Council in Lisbon on 27 June 1992 that the European Community and its member States would not recognize the new federal entity comprising Serbia and Montenegro as the successor State to the former Yugoslavia until a decision had been taken by the appropriate international institutions. The Community had decided to call for the suspension of participation by Yugoslavia in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and other international forums and organizations.

Mr. KOIKE (Japan) said that his Government considered that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) did not automatically succeed the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Accordingly, Yugoslavia's participation at the current session of the Council should not prejudge the resolution of the question of succession. His delegation wished to reserve its position in that regard.

Mr. KUDRYAVTSEV (Russian Federation) expressed the hope that the discussion of the problem under consideration would not give the question a political slant in the Council, which was not a suitable body for considering the matter.

Mr. KOVAČIČ (Observer for Slovenia) reaffirmed his Government's view, expressed in document A/47/275-S/24105, that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) could not continue the membership of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in the United Nations and other international organizations, since that State had ceased to exist. Accordingly, Slovenia supported analagous views expressed by other Member States at the current session of the Council and at other sessions of United Nations bodies and considered that the participation of the delegation of Yugoslavia at the current session of the Council should not prejudice future discussion of the issue of Yugoslavia's membership of the Organization.

Mr. OSVALD (Sweden), speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries, said that those countries would not automatically recognize the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, a new entity comprised only of two of the former Yugoslav republics, as the successor State of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and awaited a decision on the issue by the appropriate international forum. Those delegations joined in the call for the suspension of the Yugoslav delegation from the proceedings of the United Nations and other international organizations.

Mr. FRANCIS (Australia) said that, for the reasons outlined by the delegations of the United States, Turkey, Japan, Portugal and Sweden, and in keeping with the letter from the Permanent Representative of his delegation addressed to the Secretary-General contained in document A/46/907, his delegation wished to reaffirm its view that the current participation of representatives of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in meetings of

(Mr. Francis, Australia)

international organizations was without prejudice to the eventual resolution of the question of the status of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Mr. KRENKEL (Austria) said that his delegation shared the opinions expressed by previous speakers concerning the question of the representation of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro). As a member of the Security Council, his delegation had fully supported the relevant resolutions of that body, in particular, resolution 757 (1992). Serbia and Montenegro did not automatically succeed the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and the participation of the Yugoslav delegation at the current session of the Council should not constitute a precedent and was without prejudice to a discussion of the question in the appropriate forum.

Mr. DJOKIĆ (Yugoslavia) said that it was regrettable that some delegations had sought to advance their own political positions on a question that was outside the scope of the Economic and Social Council, which should be used not for recriminations and confrontation, but rather, as a forum to promote development and cooperation among peoples and States.

As his delegation had indicated in document S/23877, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia strictly respected the continuity of the international personality of Yugoslavia and would continue to exercise all the rights and fulfil all the obligations of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in its international relations, particularly the rights and obligations laid down in international treaties ratified or acceded to by Yugoslavia. The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia reaffirmed its commitment to the United Nations Charter and to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, particularly the Helsinki Final Act and the Charter of Paris for a New Europe.

The continuity of Yugoslavia as a State and its legal personality were consistent with established practice in international relations in similar circumstances, particularly in the United Nations. The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was not a new State, but rather, a restructured State within a reduced territory. It would continue to pursue a foreign policy of the broadest possible equitable cooperation with all international bodies.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS (E/1992/87, E/1992/89, E/1992/90 and E/1992/100; E/1992/L.20/Rev.1)

Mr. JI Chaozhu (Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Development) said that he was addressing the Council in the place of the Secretary-General, who was attending the summit meeting of the Organization of African Unity. The Secretary-General would open the high-level segment of the Council's deliberations on 6 July, at which the item entitled "Enhancing international cooperation for development: the role of the United Nations system" would be a key focus of the debate.

In recent years the world had witnessed a major evolution of the functional political role of the United Nations along the lines envisioned in the Charter, and numerous economic and social problems required the same priority accorded to political issues. A reinvigorated Economic and Social Council had a key role to play in that regard. He recalled the serious deterioration in living conditions and the erosion of the economic and social infrastructure in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean and parts of Asia during the 1980s and noted that economic developments in the early 1990s gave cause for much concern for the world's collective economic future, as indicated in the World Economic Survey, 1992 as well as by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Interdependence was an economic reality, not a slogan. If world markets did not expand, if productive investment did not increase, if incomes did not rise, particularly in developing countries, if major industrial economies continued their meagre performance or such performance declined, and if real long-term interest rates remained high, the international economic environment would be unable to support and absorb effectively the many export-led economic development strategies pursued by many countries.

It was imperative that policy coordination among the Group of Seven, which had weakened in recent months, be revived and made more sensitive to the needs of the world economy. If current trends continued, there was a danger that another development decade could largely be lost for most developing countries. The difficult transition under way in Eastern Europe and the newly independent States of the former Soviet Union, the severe problems facing Africa, and the continuing constraints affecting the majority of developing

(Mr. Ji Chaozhu)

countries relating to debt, capital flows and investment constituted formidable challenges. The decrease in military expenditures by the major Powers in particular had yet to be translated into a productive peace dividend. Delays in concluding the Uruguay Round of trade talks under the auspices of GATT raised the spectre of protectionist measures and the establishment of trading blocs which denied a needed stimulus for international trade, which, according to GATT, had been growing more slowly in recent years.

As the body responsible for international economic coordination under the Charter, the Council must address more pragmatically and forcefully the issues associated with the promotion of economic growth and accelerated development through strengthened international economic cooperation. It must alert the international community to the dangers which lay ahead if the current course remained unchanged and should identify measures which Member States should take to remedy the situation in the short-, medium- and long-term.

Such action by the Council would not diminish the responsibility of developing countries for carrying out sound economic policies and effectively managing their economies. However, it would be regrettable if their reform and adjustment measures were undermined by factors outside their control such as the collapse of commodity prices, continued debt burdens, limited access to external assistance and insufficient access to markets.

Major industrial nations and developing countries alike must acknowledge that an international economic recovery would depend on coherent policy actions and the will to effect a coordinated, growth-oriented approach to macroeconomic management. As ideological confrontation diminished, it was time to reassess the major elements of a global strategy for growth, productive investment, job creation and development free of traditional economic orthodoxies. The report of the Committee for Development Planning to the Council provided valuable analysis and insight in that regard.

The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) had demonstrated that environmental concerns could not be separated from development, and it was important to ensure that follow-up action reinforced the work of the United Nations in the economic and social sectors. The new

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Commission on Sustainable Development had a critical role to play in translating Agenda 21 and the follow-up action into tangible programmes.

Bearing in mind the significant human dimension of economic development activities, he noted that the Council would have before it a report by the Secretary-General on his consultations on the possibility of convening a world summit for social development. He paid tribute to Mr. Juan Somavía of Chile for his tireless efforts to ensure the success of those consultations. He further underscored the importance of the system-wide review of activities undertaken to eradicate poverty and the report on the efforts of the system concerning AIDS to be discussed in the coordination segment.

There was growing recognition of the need for more integrated, unified approaches to the formulation, implementation and governance of operational activities for development. In the light of the Secretary-General's emphasis on the need for a more integrated, harmonized approach in order to maximize the impact of the work of the Organization, the time was now propitious for Member States to consider further measures to that end, including the need for greater integration of substantive analysis and operations to maximize the impact of the work of the Organization. At the intergovernmental level, measures were needed to strengthen existing bodies or establish new mechanisms to ensure more coherent, unified intergovernmental guidance to United Nations development cooperation activities. At the institutional level, there was a need for a more effective division of labour and a harmonized approach between the various parts of the system, recognizing the separate and complementary roles of the Bretton Woods institutions and the United Nations proper. At the country level, a unified approach from the United Nations system was needed, working from a common location and reporting directly to the Secretary-General.

Progress towards the revitalization of the Council had been made recently with the consolidation or transformation of various subsidiary bodies. The agenda of the Council could be further streamlined if certain items could be dealt with in informal open-ended consultations, as was done in the Trade and Development Board of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

(Mr. Ji Chaozhu)

In the interest of revitalizing the Council and enhancing its coordinating role, the Council would benefit from more extensive reporting by the World Bank, IMF and GATT as those institutions became universal in membership and as they broached a wider range of issues.

In conclusion, he expressed the hope that the members of the Council would provide the type of leadership and governmental guidance for the work of the Organization in the economic and social sectors consistent with the desire of the Secretary-General to achieve a more integrated approach.

Mr. MOORE (United States of America), introducing his delegation's request for inclusion of an additional item in the provisional agenda of the substantive session of 1992 (E/1992/90), said that its intention was neither to reopen discussion on the decisions taken at the Conference on Environment and Development, nor to interfere with action to be taken by the General Assembly, but to ensure that the Economic and Social Council had an opportunity to discuss the post-UNCED institutional arrangements in a status report at its current session. If it was not possible to discuss UNCED follow-up under agenda items 7 or 21, then the question should be taken up under a supplementary item.

The PRESIDENT said that the Council would consider the United States delegation's request at its next meeting.

Mr. COSTA PEREIRA (Observer for Portugal), speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States, said that although the States members of the Community were aware of the pressure on the Secretariat given the need to prepare documentation for UNCED immediately before the current session of the Council, they believed that the late issuance of Council documentation had seriously hampered preparations for informed debate. That was particularly regrettable since the Council was now holding its first consolidated session. It was to be hoped that the problem could be avoided in the future.

The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt its agenda as contained in section I of document E/1992/100.

It was so decided.

PROGRAMME OF WORK (E/1992/100)

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider its programme of work, as outlined in section II of document E/1992/100.

It had been brought to his attention that some delegations wished to conclude the consideration of agenda item 17, "Human rights questions", earlier than planned. In the interest of flexibility, he suggested that the Council should formally approve its programme of work and that the matter could be brought to the attention of the Social Committee by its Chairman.

Ms. KELLEY (Secretary of the Council), referring to the Council's consideration of item 9 in the plenary meeting, said that, inasmuch as the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 1991/61 on assistance for the reconstruction and development of Lebanon and the report of the Secretary-General on assistance to Yemen would not be ready in time for the Council to consider them on 1 July as currently planned, she wished to suggest that, after hearing an introductory general statement on the item by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs that day, the Council might wish to defer further consideration of the item to 24 July.

The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to approve its programme of work as contained in document E/1992/100, section II, as orally revised.

It was so decided.

REQUESTS FOR HEARINGS BY NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (E/1992/89)

The PRESIDENT drew the Council's attention to document E/1992/89, containing the report of the Committee on Non-governmental Organizations regarding the requests for hearings by non-governmental organizations under the various items of the Council's agenda. At its meeting on 25 June 1992, the Committee had submitted a recommendation, contained in paragraph 2 of the report, seeking approval of the requests of a number of non-governmental organizations to be heard at the Committee's substantive session under the agenda items indicated. He said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to approve the recommendation contained in paragraph 2.

It was so decided.

SIXTEENTH SESSION OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA (E/1992/87)

The PRESIDENT drew the Council's attention to a note by the Secretary-General contained in document E/1992/87, proposing that the sixteenth session of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, should be held in Amman from 30 August to 3 September 1992. He said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to accept the proposal.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 5.05 p.m.